

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 192778

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANAMA 1090 ACTION SECSTATE 01 AUG 1976

QUOTE S E C R E T MANAMA 1090

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REFS : STATE 185030, MANAMA 1062 AND STATE 190173

1. I CALLED ON AMIR MORNING AUGUST 1 TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS
STATE 185030, EXPLAINING THAT PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE APPROACH
AND SUBSEQUENT INDEFINITE ABSENCE MADE IT NECESSARY FOR ME TO TAKE
THIS UP DIRECTLY WITH HIM RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH FOREIGN MIN-
ISTER AS WOULD NORMALLY BE THE PROCEDURE. IN MAKING POINTS
CONTAINED IN MY INSTRUCTIONS I STRESSED TO AMIR THAT WHILE USG
HAD ACCEPTED LAST SUMMER CONCEPT THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCE TENURE

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SHOULD BE LIMITED, WE HAD URGED GOB NOT TO STATE A SPECIFIC

DEADLINE. I ADDED THAT NAVY HAD BEEN WELL ON ITS WAY TO COMPLYING WITH GOB DEADLINE WHEN PRIME MINISTER HAD UNEXPECTEDLY RAISED WITH US POSSIBILITY THAT NAVY MIGHT STAY. I STRESSED TO AMIR OUR INTEREST IN PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSAL BUT OUR REALIZATION THAT IT WAS A COMPLICATED QUESTION REQUIRING TIME TO CONSIDER. HENCE, HAVING ON PERSONAL BASIS SUGGESTED TO PRIME MINISTER THAT JUNE 1977 DEADLINE BE EXTENDED TO PERMIT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF HIS PROPOSAL WITHOUT COMMITMENT BY EITHER PARTY, I WAS NOW UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO ASK AMIR, IN PRIME MINISTER'S ABSENCE, TO EXTEND DEADLINE A YEAR OR MORE.

2. AMIR, AFTER EXPLAINING THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD NEVER WANTED TO SEE NAVY GO BUT THAT VARIOUS POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAD MADE IT SEEM NECESSARY, SAID HE WOULD TAKE MATTER UP IMMEDIATELY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND SEE WHAT HE COULD DO. IN MY PRESENCE HE GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO CALL FOREIGN MINISTER OUT OF CABINET TO COME TO PALACE WITHIN THE HOUR.

3. I EXPLAINED TO AMIR THAT I WAS ALREADY SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AUGUST 3 AT HIS REQUEST AND THAT WITH AMIR'S PERMISSION I WOULD BRING THIS MATTER UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AT THAT TIME. AMIR ASKED THAT I DO SO.

4. SHORTLY AFTER MY RETURN FROM THE PALACE FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED TO SAY HE HAD TALKED WITH AMIR AND THAT AMIR WISHED TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER AFTER I HAD SEEN FOREIGN MINISTER AUGUST 3.

4. AMIR SAID PRIME MINISTER IS IN LONDON CLINIC FOR MEDICAL TESTS, SEEMS TO BE IN REASONABLY GOOD HEALTH AND IS EXPECTED BACK NOT BEFORE AUGUST 10. FOREIGN MINISTER IS LEAVING AUGUST 10 FOR COLOMBO. AMIR IS LEAVING AUGUST 15 AND WILL BE EFFECTIVELY INACCESSIBLE AFTER AUGUST 11. TWINAM UNQUOTE HABIB

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